



CALPEEK

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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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PART 15: WASHINGTON STATE VOTERS APPROVE REFERENDUM 48 FOR NEW FOOTBALL STADIUM.

Editor's note: Although it didn't get much coverage in the Calif. news media, voters in Washington State on June 17th narrowly approved Referendum 48 in a special election to build a new football stadium (for the Seahawks). Here is Part XV in our continuing series of reports about *public funding of sports facilities*...

...As **Calpeek** hit deadline, Ref. #48 was leading by a margin of 51% vs. 49%, but many *vote-by-mail* ballots had **not** been counted. Turnout in this special election was about 50% of WA State's 3 million registered voters. At stake: \$600 million in G.O. bonds (very different than revenue bonds) to build a new football stadium & exhibition center in Seattle. Had #48 lost, there was a chance that the Seahawks would move, with L.A. being on the short list of possible sites...

...This special also was unusual for a few other reasons:

1) For the first time in U.S. history, an individual, billionaire Paul Allen (co-founder of Microsoft) paid the entire \$4.2 million cost of the election; 2) 29 out of 32 counties in WA State decided to use a *vote-by-mail* system; 3) In addition to the State putting up G.O. bonds, #48 required Allen to put up \$100 million to buy the Seahawks (to presumably keep the team in Seattle)...

...In many respects #48 was similar to Measures D & F in S.F. (to build a new stadium and shopping mall complex for the 49ers): ● A huge amount of money was spent to pass this measures (sources estimate \$5 million) vs. only \$100,000 for the opposition, which was run by Standard Communications (based in Santa Monica & Seattle); ● Late polling showed the race to be *dead even* days before the election; and ● Opponents focused on the deal itself ("A Bad Deal"), claiming that Allen would only put up 20% of the funds to

build the complex, but would get 80% of the profits...

...Although the final tally isn't in, sources say this win should hold up. Why did voters approve #48? Certainly boosterism (pride in the state's future) was a key factor. As one source told **Calpeek**, "If the State is to continue being in the major leagues, we need a world class facility." Big winner: Gov. Gary Locke (D), the first Chinese-American governor in the U.S., who was a big supporter of #48...

...FYI: Inglewood Strikes Again. Assemblyman Ed Vincent (D-Inglewood) blocked passage of AB 338 by Mike Sweeney (D-Hayward) - a bill designed to cool off the multi-million bidding wars for CA sports franchises. Vincent said the bill was flawed because the L.A. Lakers (NBA) and L.A. Kings (NHL) were exempted from the bill. Sweeney says he'll reintroduce his measure next year. *More next week* - because we hear major political/sports developments could be breaking soon in L.A. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: GOP ASSEMBLYMAN FIRESTONE GOES ONLINE TO ANNOUNCE FOR LT. GOVERNOR.

Editor's note: It's a first - Santa Barbara Assemblyman Brooks Firestone announced June 18th his intent to run for Lt. Government via the *internet*. Here's our report & analysis...

...It was a cute gimmick, announcing via the internet, with *e-mail* news releases and reporters logging onto Firestone's *website* (<http://www.brooksfirestone.org>) to ask him questions (Brooks' own little *chat room*). And it got Firestone some good news media exposure, both before the actual announcement and afterwards. And while a spokesperson for GOP Sen. Tim Leslie called the internet announcement a *stunt*, it's clear that Firestone's campaign team pulled a *coup* of sorts, be-

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cause it's not easy to get any kind of decent news media coverage when running for LG...

...Aside from Leslie, the only other candidate seriously looking here is State Sen. Dick Mountjoy(R-Arcadia), who is to the right of Leslie. Leslie is described as a traditional conservative. Firestone is a *centerist*, trying to position himself like some other moderate LG Republicans: Goodwin Knight, Harold "Butch" Powers and Bob Finch. So far at least, no Demos who have announced for LG, but that might change soon...

...As for the candidate, Firestone has been in office 2 terms, is pro-choice and pro-environment. His platform will stress what he calls *The 3-Es*: education, environment and the economy. Snappy sounding and Firestone will be touting his *scholar-share* plan to allow families to save for college. This plan may not carry his name anymore as lead author, but it was his idea and the bill now has 50 co-authors...

...This announcement on June 18th is in lieu of the traditional late January, 3-4 city fly-around which other statewide candidates usually do. Why did Firestone dump the traditional in favor of the unknown? Perhaps to position himself as a risk taker and someone who is a *futurist* looking past the year 2000...

...As for the campaign team, lead consulting duties will be shared between The Dolphin Group (HQ'd in L.A.) and Santa Barbara-based Davies Communications. There is no professional pollster or fundraiser aboard (wife Kate Firestone and the candidate will do most of the fundraising for now), but the campaign does have a *computer consultant*: Dennis Alby, who is currently the technical advisor to the GOP Assembly Caucus. BoxTop Interactive and U.S. Web Networkers designed Firestone's website and set up the online announcement news conference...

...FYI: Demos claim to have conducted the *1st cyber-space ambush* of a candidate when they logged onto Firestone's website and asked him to apologize for being the only member of the Assembly who voted against ACR 8 (by Honda & Takasugi) declaring Feb. 19, 1997 as a Day of Remembrance for the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned during WWII. Stay tuned...

SEC. OF STATE ALBRIGHT AT COMMONWEALTH.

U.S. Sec. of State Madelein Albright will address members of the Commonwealth Club of Calif., 11:45 a.m., June 26, Hilton Hotel, S.F. For info & RSVPs, ☎ (415)597-6705...

U.S. DRUG CZAR ADDRESSES COMMONWEALTH.

Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey, director of the White House office of nat'l drug policy (drug czar), will address members of the Commonwealth Club of Calif., 11:45 a.m., July 2nd, Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. For info ☎ (415)597-6705...

FULL METAL JACKET: WILL WILSON SIGN GUN BILLS?

Editor's note: Last week Calpeek focused on a number of GUN bills which were approved by the full memberships of either the CA Senate or Assembly. This week we'll speculate about the fate of these bills and whether or not Gov. Pete Wilson(R) will sign any of these proposals into law. Here's our analysis...

...Most of the *Lucky 7* (the remaining bills which won approval) originated in the Assembly, thus these bills must now win approval in the State Senate. And so the political spotlight will be turned on Senate Pres. Pro Tem Bill Lockyer(D), who is seriously looking at a run for AG in '98. Key players in the AG race are the various law enforcement groups, most of whom support these various bills. And the key authors of two of these bills, Kevin Shelley & Don Perata, are members of the Demo Assembly leadership team --- and these guys have clout within the Senate Demo Caucus. So it's very likely that AB 23(Perata) & AB 991(Shelley & Perata) will win approval pretty much intact, as will several other gun bills. Lockyer understands the *politics of guns* better than most and knows that women are a key voting bloc in Calif. -- and they generally support these kinds of gun laws...

...This brings us to Gov. Wilson. According to our sources, since 1991 the governor has signed 55 gun regulatory measures and has vetoed 4. Most of the bills which Wilson signed were *consensus measures* where everyone got something, but there have been some exceptions (a gun safety bill in '91 and a bill to micro-manage the DOJ's gun budget in '95)...

...What does Wilson and his staff look for in a gun bill?
1) Most importantly, the position on a bill by the

police chiefs & county sheriffs + other law enforcement groups; 2) the position of the American Shooting Sports Council(ASSC); and 3) Wilson's staff looks toward the two Demo legislative gun gurus, Bill Cavala & Irwin Nowick. If all three are in agreement, there's a good chance Wilson will sign a bill, irrespective of the NRA or AG Dan Lungren(R). But of the three groups, it's the police chiefs & sheriffs who have the *most clout* with Wilson. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: PART IV - CALIF. U.S. HOUSE RACES.

Editor's note: This week **Calpeek** will take a look at 3 more U.S. House races...

☒ **46th CD** - Nothing new to report here. Freshman Demo U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez of Anaheim is hoping that the GOP-controlled House won't overturn her narrow win over former Congressman Bob Dornan(R) because of what appears to be illegal voting by individuals who weren't U.S. Citizens at the time they registered to vote. There are about 300-400 who may have voted illegally, but Sanchez won by 900+. Nevertheless, Dornan continues to bash away. If the House should overturn the election and call a special, Dornan won't be the only GOPer in the running. Attorney Lisa Hughes also has announced her intent to challenge Sanchez...

☒ **49th CD** - This is the district of 2-term U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray(R-San Diego), the former surfer-turned Mayor of Imperial Beach and then county supervisor. He knocked off freshman Demo Lynn Schenk in '94 and wiped out Peter Navarro by 17,000 votes in '96. Registration is 39% Demo & GOP, with 13% as DTS, thus this CD is considered fairly safe GOP turf, unless there's a very popular Demo in the running. And word on the street is that former San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor is looking. So is the DCCC...

☒ **50th CD** - This is the district of 3-term U.S. Rep. Bob Filner(D-San Diego), who because of Calif.'s new Open Primary Law, may face his toughest challenge yet: another run by S.D. Councilman Juan Vargas(D) in the June '98 primary. With GOPers able to cross over party lines, Vargas has the potential to take Filner out. No final decisions by Vargas as yet, but sources say he's leaning toward another challenge. This CD is on **Calpeek's watch list**...

CAMPAIGN '98: ODDS AND ENDS FROM AROUND CA.
Editor's note: Here are some political developments worth noting...

☒ **CA Secretary of State** - After the S.F. Examiner (with a little help from **Calpeek**) pounded Demo Sec. of State candidate Tony Miller about his refusal to pay his \$170,000 + printing bill left over from his '94 SOS campaign, Miller has now agreed to pay off the debt to American Data Management. **Calpeek** contacted ADM owner Doug Winslow, who said he's very happy with a new agreement he and his legal team worked out with Miller. According to sources, Miller has agreed to pay ADM in full. "Everything my lawyer needed, we got," Winslow said. And according to Winslow, ADM will be working with Miller again in '98. The agreement is an absolute necessity for Miller if he's to run in '98 as a *campaign reformer*. It would look horrible to voters had he not agreed to pay off this debt. But even with the new agreement, he'll still get pounded...

☒ **GOP U.S. Senate Race** - GOP U.S. Senate candidate Susan Golding has released her first list of key endorsements. This list of 59 *business leaders* includes Lod Cook, chair Emeritus of ARCO; Dr. Jerry Buss, owner/ceo of the L.A. Lakers; Bernie Marcus, chair/ceo of The Home Depot; John Moores, owner of the San Diego Padres; Mervyn Morris, founder of Mervyn's Department Stores; Bob Naylor, former CRP chair; Jay Pitzger, chair of Hyatt Hotel Corp.; Robert Rau, ceo of Rohr, Inc.; Sheldon Sloan, president of the L.A. Co. Bar Assn. --- to name a few...

...One of the more interesting endorsements is that of Alex Spanos, chairman of the board of A.G. Spanos Companies. Spanos also is the owner of the San Diego Chargers football team. Remember the brouhaha about the \$60 million in revenue bonds that Mayor Golding pushed through to remodel Jack Murphy stadium (recently renamed Qualcom Stadium)? But hold on: isn't Spanos also the guy who gave Treas. Matt Fong(R) \$250,000 in his '94 race --- and another \$100,000 in '96, not to mention being a recent co-chair of a Fong fundraising dinner in March???

COMMUNICATING WITH CALPEEK VIA E-MAIL.

For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: **calpeek@aol.com**. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Leonard to Replace Pringle*** - Around June 6th Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro(R-Palo Robles) realized he wasn't going to get the votes to replace Curt Pringle as GOP Assembly Leader and endorsed Bill Leonard (R-Upland) as the new GOP leader. Ten days later Keith Olberg of Victorville, who was backed by Pringle, did the same thing. The news of Leonard's likely succession hit June 17th and the next day the GOP Caucus confirmed Leonard as the new leader, but he won't take over until after the budget is passed. Leonard, who was in the assembly from 1978-88 and then in the State Senate from 1988-96, before returning to the Assembly this year, is regarded as more of a *policy wonk* than a *political strategist*. But his election perhaps sends a signal that there will be less of this nasty confrontation with Demos than there has been in the last 3-4 years...

■ ***Defense Rests in O.C. Voter Fraud Trail*** - By this time next week it may be all over in the Orange County jury trial of Rhonda Carmony, a GOP campaign operative charged with 3 felonies for allegedly aiding decoy Demo Laurie Campbell falsify nominating papers in the 67th AD recall election of '95. After just a half-day's presentation, the defense rested its case. Carmony was **not** called to testify in her own defense, and another witness, Jeff Flint, GOP Assembly Leader Curt Pringle's COS, took the **5th Amendment**. This has been a trial where most of the witnesses have been GOP campaign workers who were involved in the recall of Doris Allen(R). The witnesses fall into two(2) camps: 1) those loyal to Pringle (they point the finger of blame at Carmony); and 2) those loyal to GOP U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (they tend to say Carmony isn't guilty as charged). What is obvious, however, is that both camps were deeply involved in this whole scheme to put Campbell on the ballot to drain Demo votes (and insure the election of GOPER Scott Baugh). Or as one source told **Calpeek**, "There were no virgins in this drill." More next week...

■ ***Finally, Caldera Gets His DC Job*** - Although he must win confirmation, on June 18th East L.A. Assem-

blyman Louis Caldera(D) announced he would be resigning his seat to become managing director of the Corp. for Nat'l & Community Service. When Gov. Wilson calls for a special election in the 46th AD, it will set off WWII among local area Demos - and give **Calpeek** something fun to cover...

■ ***Cold Warriors Screws Long Beach*** - Despite DOD statements to the contrary, some conservative, *cold war* GOPers got the House Nat'l Security Cmt. voted 29-24 to bar cities from selling or leasing any former military base to any foreign-owned company. This is NOT good news for the City of Long Beach, which wants to turn part of the old naval shipyard and base into a \$200 million cargo terminal and lease the land to COSCO, a Beijing-based shipping company. Leader of the cold warrior GOPers is U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter(R-San Diego). If this amendment isn't pulled, Long Beach could lose this deal. But the guy who could end up in *deep political trouble* is GOP U.S. Rep. Steve Horn of Long Beach. This could be a sticky campaign issue in 1998...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

June 23	DCCC Fundraising breakfast, Silicon Valley.
June 23	Pres. Bill Clinton addresses U.S. Conf. of Mayors, San Francisco.
June 23	Pres. Bill Clinton keynote speaker at U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer fundraisers at noon in S.F. and 6 p.m. in L.A.
July 18-20	UC Davis Extension's 13th annual Political Campaign Management Institute.
July 22-30	Nat'l Governor's Assn. meeting, Las Vegas.
July 26-28	50th Annual CA Broadcasters Assn. convention, Monterey, CA.
July 27	DCCC Dinner in L.A. w/Pres. Bill Clinton.
July 29	Trial begins on challenge to constitutionality of CA's Open Primary Law, U.S. Court, Sacto.
Aug. 2-Sept. 2	Congressional recess.
Aug. 6-10	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
Aug. 21-23	Regional Political Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Council of State Govts. - West. San Francisco.
Sept. 12	CA Legislative session ends.
Nov. 16-19	IAPC Annual Conf., Buenos Aires.
Dec. 3-5	Sessions on Tourism & Future of Western Legislatures. Sponsored by Council of State Govts. - West. Kohala Coast, Hawaii.
Dec. 5-9	Council of State Govts. annual meeting, Honolulu.